

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00671 031649Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /079 W  
-----105344 031703Z /43

O P 031600Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7748  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0671

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV RH UK  
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: ZAMBIAN ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRESS EMPHASIS ON  
DANGERS OF CONFLICT AND COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT

1. PRESS ADVISER TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA AT STATE HOUSE,  
MILIMO PUNABANTU, HAS BEEN BRIEFING WESTERN NEWSMEN  
VISITING LUSAKA RECENTLY. MANY OF THEM HAVE COME TO  
TOWN TO FOLLOW UP ON WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT DAVID  
OTTAWAY'S STORY OF MORE THAN 8,000 ZAPU TROOPS POSED TO STRIKE INTO  
RHODESIA. PUNABANTU'S BRIEFING USUALLY CONFIRMS IN  
GENERAL TERMS OTTAWAY'S ARTICLE. IT BLAMES WESTERN (UK-US)  
ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT FOR AGGRAVATING  
THE SITUATION AND THREATENS THAT, AS A RESULT, ZAMBIA  
WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CALL UPON MILITARY ASSISTANCE  
FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA. SOMETIMES ZAMBIAN  
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SOURCES WILL GO SO FAR AS TO PREDICT WESTERN MILITARY  
ASSISTANCE TO RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE IN DEFENSE AGAINST  
PATRIOTIC FRONT ATTACKS.

2. MANY OF THE WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS, INCLUDING NEW  
YORK TIMES JOHN BURNS AND THE FINANCIAL TIMES  
CORRESPONDENT, ARE REPORTING THE SITUATION MORE OR LESS

STRAIGHT AS GIVEN THEM BY PUNABANTU. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT PRINGLE WILL GIVE THE STORY SOMEWHAT MORE BALANCE.

3. AT OUR OWN BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS OF THE SAME CORRESPONDENTS, WE HAVE RECOGNIZED THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY BUT HAVE TRIED TO PLAY DOWN THE MORE SPECTACULAR REPORTS OF IMMINENT CUBAN-SOVIET TROOPS AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY OF LARGE-SCALE CONVENTIONAL WARFARE BETWEEN THE PF AND RHODESIAN FORCES.

4. WE HAVE ALSO POINTED OUT TO THE CORRESPONDENTS THAT NKOMO'S BARGAINING POWER DEPENDS UPON HIS CONVINCING THE WORD THAT HIS MILITARY AUTHORITY IS SUCH THAT NO SETTLEMENT IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT IT. HE CAN DO THIS IN PART BY MILITARY ACTION BUT ALSO BY CONVINCING PUBLIC OPINION AND GOVERNMENTS THAT THE THREAT HE REPRESENTS IS REAL. TO THE DEGREE THAT THE FRONTLINE GOVERNMENTS SUPPORT HIM THEY WILL BE MAKING THE SAME POINT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMUNISTS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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